

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2000
IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order at 10:15 AM. on February 16, 2000 at Irvine City Council Chambers, Irvine, California.

Members Present: Edward P. Graveline, Vice Chairman
 James R. Mills
 Donna Lee Andrews
 John P. Fowler
 William E. Leonard

Members Absent: Michael Tennenbaum, Chairman
 Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Jerry B. Epstein
 T. J. Stapleton

Members Report

Member Leonard stated he has met with several groups as well as Legislators in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. He received a very positive response from Senator Feinstein and other legislators. The issue from the federal standpoint is how serious is California. When California puts up the initial amount required for the initiation of the environmental study that is when the federal government would be interested in joining with California in this project.

Executive Directors Report

Executives Director Morshed stated that over the past month staff as well as Authority Members have been meeting with key legislators in Sacramento as well as local elected officials throughout the state. In general most of the comments have been supportive. There is a consensus amongst the people the Authority has met with that there should be a high-speed train in California's future. Also they like the concept of phasing that is embodied in the draft business plan.

Executive Director Morshed stated the Authority has had several workshops in various parts of the state. And have scheduled workshops in San Diego, Palmdale, Inland Empire, and Escondido. A public meeting has been scheduled on March 22nd in conjunction with an Authority Meeting.

Executive Director Morshed is currently working with some legislators who are interested in putting together a fact finding trip to Europe during the legislatures Spring break which would coincide with the April 19th meeting, therefore the April meeting may need to be cancelled if the trip is approved.

Executive Director Morshed reported that budget hearings would be scheduled in the next couple of months, the sub-committees in the Assembly and the Senate will be hearing the various pieces

of the budget including the Authority's budget. As stated earlier the current Governor's budget includes \$1M for the Authority and no additional funding for contracts. The question of whether or not the recommendations of the Authority are going to be implemented, which is to proceed with the program EIR, will require funding which means that unless the sub-committees act to fund the Authority then we can not proceed with the program EIR in the following fiscal year. This will be a critical time and issue for the Authority and its work before the sub-committees. As soon as dates have been established for the meetings the Authority will be informed.

AB1703, authored by Assemblymember Dean Florez, authorizes the legislature to proceed with the program EIR and is consistent with the recommendations contained in the draft business plan. Executive Director Morshed recommended that the Authority consider taking a position on the bill for presentation to the sub-committees. Member Mills inquired if the Author requested the Authority state a position. Executive Director Morshed responded that he has been in contact with Assemblymember Florez, and in fact he would like a statement of position, particularly because one of the provisions of the bill establishes the terms of office for the Authority members, and would have a direct impact on most of the members appointments. Executive Director Morshed stated that last month the California Transportation Commission (CTC) voted to oppose the bill. Member Leonard stated the Authority should state that the current provisions of the bill are consistent with the recommendations in the draft business plan and the Authority is wholly supportive of the provisions contained in the bill, without specifically stating support for the bill. Vice-Chairman Graveline and Members Fowler and Mills agreed with Member Leonard's recommendation. Executive Director Morshed stated the staff would draft a letter for circulation to the Authority members for their review and comment.

Maglev Deployment Program Update

Al Perdon, Program Manager made a brief presentation on current status of the Maglev Deployment Program. A copy of his presentation is available upon request.

Member Leonard expressed his concerns regarding the German government's withdrawal from the development of the Maglev line between Hamburg and Berlin.

Executive Director Morshed stated Mr. Perdon is the project manager on behalf of the Authority for the federal Maglev Deployment Project, which is technology specific. The State of California when applying for the project actually committed to the deployment of a maglev system in that corridor. In order for it to proceed, according to the federal laws and regulations, that money is only available for maglev and the objective of that study is to actually deploy a maglev project within the next couple of years. We are working under a federal deadline that is pretty tight regarding finishing the environmental process and awarding a contract for a maglev project. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is considering sending out a solicitation for selecting a franchise or a partner to build a maglev project. It is important that the Authority recognize the fact that this particular project is way ahead of Berlin or any other project that the German government is currently planning. The Authority has two responsibilities; one is the overall state project and the other is the maglev project. The maglev application's intent is to be the leader in the nation and the world to deploy a maglev project. There are two issues relating to the maglev project; one is for the maglev project to proceed, in order to actually qualify for the next round of funding from the federal government, it requires

the State of California and SCAG have a partner in the private sector to build a maglev system. In order to get a partner it will require the State of California to commit to certain things, including some provision that states that we will not compete with you by improving transportation in that corridor. Executive Director Morshed stated he has written a letter to the Secretary of Business Transportation and Housing Agency requesting advise, in terms of what role if any should the Authority play in proceeding with this. Seeing though this is a very important policy issue for the State of California the Authority needs some assistance from the Administration. The other issue for the Authority to consider is the process that maglev is following in starting an environmental process for a maglev project. The corridor specified in the maglev project is the same corridor included in the draft business plan, which is to be included in environmental process. If the legislature approved the funding for the Authority to proceed with the environmental process we have to reconcile the differences in the corridor from LAX to Union Station and Union Station to Riverside. In one hand you will be applying for federal funding to look at maglev only and in the other hand, on the overall project, you are looking at a maglev or some other technology as part of a program EIR. These are issues that need to be discussed during the workshops in Southern California, so the communities can respond and let the Authority know how they wish to proceed.

Member Mills stated that we are in the position of canceling out any parallel rail development between central Los Angeles and points east, that is part of line we have adopted for service to San Diego. One of the things the Authority has to consider is that if we do this we have committed ourselves to maglev for the line to San Diego. We solve this problem by saying the maglev line does not go east of downtown Los Angeles, it goes from the Airport to Union Station.

Executive Director Morshed responded that in regards to the maglev project the Authority is only one entity that has a responsibility and opinion but also there are other entities in this project. SCAG on behalf of the counties they represent are on record 100 percent supportive of a maglev project. The counties of Riverside and San Bernardino also support the maglev project. The State of California has an application with the federal government saying that we want to build a maglev project in this corridor.

Public Comment

Marty Bryant, City Project Development Administrator, City of Irvine
Dave Elbaum, Director of Planning and Development, OCTA
Mel Vernon, Santa Ana
Doug Foy, Director of Transportation, Disneyland
Julia Araiza, Tustin
Bill Robbins, Tustin
Richard Bair, Big Bear Lake

Approval of Minutes for January 19, 2000 Meeting

Vice-Chairman Graveline presented the minutes for approval. Member Mills moved to approve the minutes. Member Fowler seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 (Chairman Tennenbaum and Members Bates, Epstein, and Stapleton were absent).

Executive Directors Report - AB 1703

Member Leonard motioned that the Authority prepare a letter iterating the conclusions in the draft business plan, encouraging the governor and the legislature to augment the work of the Authority by initiating the first stage environmental process. Member Mills seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 (Chairman Tennenbaum and Members Bates, Epstein, and Stapleton were absent).

Authority Members Meetings for Compensation

Executive Director Morshed presented the list of meetings for compensation. Member Mills moved to approve the list. Member Fowler seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 (Chairman Tennenbaum and Members Bates, Epstein, and Stapleton were absent).

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM